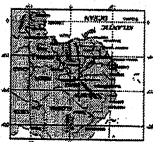


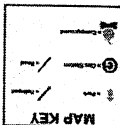
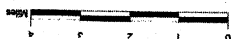
parts of a map



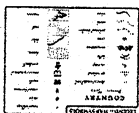
coordinate
grid



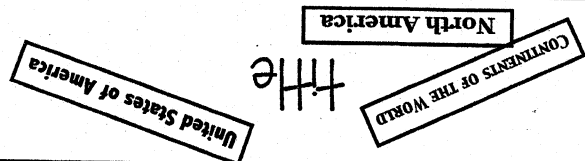
scale



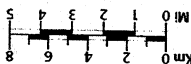
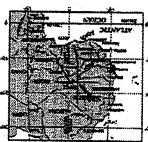
map key



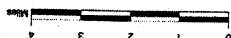
compass rose



coordinate
grid



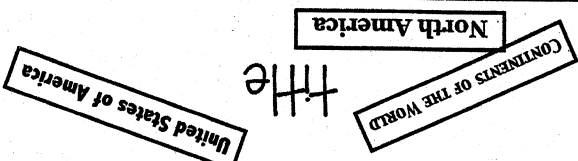
scale



map key



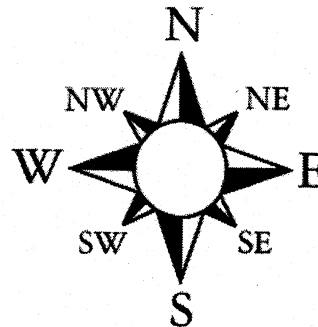
compass rose



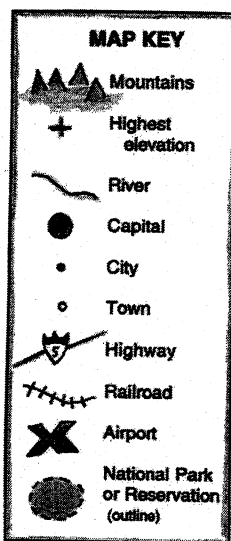
parts of a map

Parts of a Map

All maps have certain basic parts. Every map has a **title** that tells what the map is about. Every map will have a **compass rose**, too. The compass rose shows direction. The compass rose helps you match the direction of the piece of paper to the actual direction on the Earth.



Cardinal directions are the four main parts on a compass: north, south, east, and west. On most maps, the top arrow points to north and the bottom arrow points to south. West is on the left side, and east is on the right side. The points in between the cardinal directions are called intermediate directions. The **intermediate directions** are northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast.



The objects on a map are shown using colors or **symbols**. Symbols are pictures on a map that stand for something in the real world. Maps use symbols to show many things in a small space. Symbols make maps easy to read.

The **map key** shows what symbols on the map mean. The key is usually in a box in the bottom corner of the map. Mountains may be marked with little triangles. A blue line might represent a road or a river. The key shows a small picture of each symbol used on the map along with the meaning of each symbol.